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NORHAM & ISLANDSHIRES RURAL DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

1963

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL
OF
NORHAM AND ISLANDSHIRES

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NORHAM AND ISLANDSHIRES RURAL DISTRICT

A N N U A L R E P O R T

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

SURVEYOR AND PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

1963

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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

1963

To the Chairman and Members of the Norham & Islandshires Rural District Council

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my fourth Annual Report on the health and sanitary circumstances of Norham & Islandshires Rural District Council for the year 1963.

There are few significant changes in the vital statistics. The estimated mid-year population shows very little difference from the previous year. The birth rate for the past year was practically identical to that of 1962.

There has however, been a considerable drop in the death rate. The numbers recorded for the Rural District for 1963 are very much lower than the national level. It is heartening to see that there were no infant deaths during the year. The great majority of the deaths were caused by cardio vascular conditions and malignant disease was responsible for one death in seven.

Of the infectious diseases, measles of which there were 6 instances, was the only disease notified. There were no instances of tuberculosis during the year.

The Public Health Inspector in his report discusses the state of the water undertaking and it is most satisfactory to observe that an excellent supply and service has been given by the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company.

It is satisfactory to see that sewage works are operating well in some of the villages, but progress in the outstanding schemes, such as East Ord, Horncliffe and Donaldson's Lodge seems disappointingly slow.

A small increase in Council housing occurred during the year. This together with the award of Discretionary and Standard Grants for improving existing properties all help in ensuring that the population of the District is satisfactorily housed.

During 1963 new and higher standards of meat inspection became mandatory. This welcome additional item of legislation now ensures that all meat for human consumption is examined by a qualified meat inspector.

The vast increase in road traffic has led to new problems of hygiene for Rural Districts throughout the country. Laybys on busy trunk roads present an increasingly urgent problem. This Rural District is particularly concerned with the layby at Haggerston, which because of its size and the presence of trees, has become an extensive offensive open toilet.

This state of affairs is intolerable. Medieval standards of hygiene on the highway are not acceptable.

It is of course normally the responsibility of District Authorities to provide toilets. However, as trunk roads are financed entirely by the Ministry of Transport, it is surely reasonable that toilet facilities should be included in the construction and maintenance of these roads. Therefore, positive direction and help from the Ministry are needed to secure this.

In conclusion, I wish to express my appreciation of the help I have received from the Chairman and Members of the Council and from the Council staff during the year.

I am,
Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,

Medical Officer of Health

GENERAL STATISTICS

The area of the district was 47,011 acres.

The number of inhabited houses was 1,351 and the number of new houses completed during the year was 13.

The rateable value was £86,622. and the sum represented by a penny rate was £339.

The estimated mid-year population was 4,090 and this figure was taken when calculating the birth and death rate.

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	18	24	42
Illegitimate	1	-	1
Totals	19	24	43

Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 of the population	10.51
Crude Birth Rate multiplied by Comparability Factor	13.24
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births	2.32

Still Births			
Legitimate	1	-	1
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Totals	1	-	1

Stillbirth rate per 1,000 total live and still births	22.72
Total live and still births	44

Infant Deaths (deaths under 1 year)			
Legitimate	-	-	-
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Totals	-	-	-

Infant Mortality Rates	
Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births	-
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births	-
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births	-

Neo-natal Mortality Rate	
Deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births	-

Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate	
Deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births	-

Perinatal Mortality Rate	
Stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and stillbirths	-

Maternal Mortality (including abortion)	
Number of deaths	-
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births	-

Deaths	Males	Females	Total
	18	17	35

Crude Death Rate per 1,000 of the population	8.55
Crude Death Rate multiplied by Comparability Factor	7.86
Deaths from Puerperal Sepsis	-
Deaths from Other Puerperal Causes	-
Deaths from Cancer	5

CHIEF CAUSES OF DEATH

	Males	Females	Total
Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	-	-	-
Tuberculosis (Other)	-	-	-
Syphilitic Disease	-	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-	-
Meningococcal Infections	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-
Measles	-	-	-
Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	-	-
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	1	-	1
" " Lung, Bronchus	-	-	-
" " Breast	-	-	-
" " Uterus	-	-	-
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	2	2	4
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	-	-	-
Diabetes	-	-	-
Vascular Lesions of the Nervous System	3	7	10
Coronary Disease, Angina	7	-	7
Hypertension with Heart Disease	-	1	1
Other Heart Disease	3	4	7
Other Circulatory Disease	-	-	-
Influenza	-	1	1
Pneumonia	-	-	-
Bronchitis	1	-	1
Other diseases of Respiratory System	-	-	-
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	-	-	-
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	-	-	-
Nephritis and Nephrosis	-	-	-
Hyperplasia of Prostate	-	-	-
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	-	-	-
Congenital Malformations	-	-	-
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	1	2	3
Motor Vehicle Accidents	-	-	-
All Other Accidents	-	-	-
Suicide	-	-	-
Homicide and operations of War	-	-	-
Totals	18	17	35

INFANT MORTALITY

N I L

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Scarlet Fever	-
Whooping Cough	-
Diphtheria	-
Measles	6
Pneumonia	-
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	-
Enteric Fever	-
Erysipelas	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	-
Dysentery	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-
Smallpox	-
Paratyphoid Fever	-
Food Poisoning	-
Encephalitis	-

TUBERCULOSIS

There were no notifications of tuberculosis during the year.

POLIOMYELITIS VACCINATION

North No. 1 and 2 Areas

The following table shows the number of persons vaccinated against poliomyelitis during the year ended 31st December, 1963.

			Number of Persons
Two Injections	-	Salk Vaccine	6
Third Booster	-	Salk Vaccine	37
Fourth Booster	-	Salk Vaccine	-
Three doses	-	Oral Vaccine	1,094
Booster dose oral after two Salk injections			184
Booster dose oral after three Salk injections			420
Booster dose oral after three Oral doses			13

IMMUNISATION

	Primary Immunisations								Secondary (Reinforcing) Injections							
	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5/9	10/14	Total	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5/9	10/14	Total
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	9	19
Diphtheria and Tetanus	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	1	6
Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Tetanus	13	7	1	-	-	-	-	21	-	-	-	-	1	2	1	4
Totals	13	7	1	-	-	-	-	21	-	-	-	-	1	21	11	29

SMALLPOX VACCINATION

North No. 1 Area

	Number Vaccinated During Period						Number Re-vaccinated					
District	Under 1	1	2-4	5-14	15 or over	Total	Under 1	1	2-4	5-14	15 or over	Total
Berwick M.B.	32	5	-	2	2	41	-	-	1	7	8	16
Belford R.D.	4	7	1	-	1	13	-	-	2	2	12	16
Glendale R.D.	27	2	-	-	3	32	-	-	-	1	10	11
Norham R.D.	3	-	-	1	1	5	-	-	-	-	7	7
Totals	66	14	1	3	7	91	-	-	3	10	37	50

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SURVEYOR AND SANITARY INSPECTOR

1963

To the Chairman and Members of the Norham and Islandshires Rural District Council

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my Report for the year 1963.

WATER SUPPLIES

For the past 21 months, the supply of water to the Public has been the responsibility of the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company. During the past year, I am pleased to report that the Company has given an excellent service and has attended most promptly and effectively to unforeseen breakdowns, threatened water shortages, burst and fractured mains, etc. to the absolute minimum inconvenience to consumers. This is regarded as extremely satisfactory.

The extension of the Fenwick Water Supply Scheme to Haggerston was promptly and efficiently executed by the Company during the year.

SEWERAGE

The present modern sewerage and sewage works at Holy Island, Scremerston and Cornhill Villages, on the whole, operated very satisfactorily, although the effluent from the Cornhill works sometimes gave cause for apprehension.

New schemes on similar lines are in course of preparation for East Ord, Horncliffe and Donaldson's Lodge, and it is possible that work will commence on these schemes during 1964.

PLANS

There were 50 plans deposited during the year with the necessary applications under the Town and Country Planning Acts and Local Byelaws. Of these applications 48 were approved and 2 refused.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

Though infestations have been slight during the year, minor outbreaks, which could have resulted in major infestations, were speedily and efficiently cleared by the District Council operator. Indeed, the step taken in engaging one of the District Council Refuse Collection workman to act as Rodent operator on a part time basis has proved tremendously successful, as the workman can carry out surveys and small treatments while engaged on his normal duties.

	TYPE OF PROPERTY				
	Non-Agricultural				
	Local Authority (1)	Dwelling Houses (2)	All other Premises (3)	Total of Cols. 1,2 and 3 (4)	Agricultural (5)
1. Number of properties in Local Authority's District	4	1510	248	1762	132
2. Total number of properties inspected as a result of notification	-	7	14	21	-
3. Total number of properties inspected in the course of survey under the Act.	8	821	160	989	81
4. Total inspections carried out including reinspections	16	800	201	1017	110
5. Number of infested premises treated by Local Authority	4	46	9	59	-

This has been a very good year for Rodent Control. Only two major infestations were unearthed, which were immediately investigated and cleared.

WATER SAMPLES

Collected for Analysis

	Total	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Chemical	1	1	-
Bacteriological	4	3	1

HOUSING

During the year 13 new houses were built, 9 by the Local Authority and 4 by private persons. The nine bungalows at Norham (Bow Well Cottages) for housing elderly persons, were erected very speedily and efficiently by Gregory Housing Ltd. This admirable little estate provides small but exceedingly well designed and easy worked houses in pleasant surroundings for the elderly needy of Norham and it is felt that similar small schemes would equally prove a boon elsewhere in the District Council area.

HOUSING STATISTICS 1963

Number of inhabited houses in District 1351

Number of houses owned by Local Authority 300

New Houses completed during the year	With State Assistance	Unaided	Total
(a) By Local Authority	9	-	9
(b) By any other Housing Authority	-	-	-
(c) By Private persons	-	4	4

Houses Demolished (a) in Clearance Areas -

(b) not in Clearance Areas 2

Houses closed 2

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

(1) Discretionary Grants

(a) Applications submitted 7

(b) Applications approved 7

(c) Approximate average grant approved per house £367

(d) Total number of houses approved for grant since inception of scheme 249

(2) Standard Grants

	During the year	Total to date
(a) Number of separate houses for which grants have been made	3	17
(b) Number of houses so provided with:-		
(i) Bath or shower	1	15
(ii) Wash Hand Basin	1	15
(iii) Hot water supply	1	15
(iv) Water closet	3	17
(v) Food store	1	15

At Holy Island, new sewerage was installed in 1961. At the end of 1963, there remained only 20 houses not connected to Mains water and the new sewerage system. These properties, owing to their sound construction, would qualify for grant assistance on being modernised.

CARAVAN PARKS

Two caravan sites are situate within the District Council area - Haggerston and East Ord. Both of them are increasing in popularity and are now well established. Each is admirably conducted and would compare very favourably with any other site throughout the Country.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

Number of factories throughout the area	24
Inspections carried out	28
Contraventions found	-

PUBLIC CONVENIENCE - HOLY ISLAND

This convenience is open each year from Easter to the end of October, mainly to cater for the flood of visitors to the Island during this period. It is closed during the Winter months. The Attendant takes much pride in his work, the standard of cleanliness is high, and his efforts most praiseworthy.

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION

There is only one Slaughterhouse in the District situate in Norham village and it operates under a Private Licence. The condition of the Slaughterhall, lairage, food preparation premises and shop is excellent. One hundred and fifty visits and inspections were made during the year.

Animals slaughtered -	Steers	258
	Sheep and Lambs	461

REFUSE COLLECTION

One five ton Bedford Refuse Collection vehicle and two men maintain this essential service throughout the area. Collection is made once fortnightly, at least, from all premises, with disposal at two recognised tips. Very few complaints were received during the year and the service, though no doubt meagre, is satisfactory.

NUMBER AND NATURE OF INSPECTIONS DURING THE YEAR

Complaints and nuisances	10
Disinfection and disinfestation	4
Factories	28
Food premises - Food and Drugs Act, 1955	30
Houses - Insanitary	34
Ice Cream premises	11
Rodent infested properties and land	39
Slaughterhouse - Meat Inspection	150
Caravan sites	14
Water Supplies	10
Notifiable Diseases	2
Improvement Grants	59
Council House Repairs	156
Building byelaws	149
Storage of petroleum	17
Planning - Town and Country Acts	52
Refuse Disposal	41
Sewage and sewerage	191
TOTAL VISITS AND INSPECTIONS MADE	997

I am,
Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,

A. N. SENIOR

Surveyor and Public Health Inspector

52, Ravensdowne,
BERWICK UPON TWEED
October, 1964.